

## United States Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine

### Security Message for U.S. Citizens:

#### Continuing Demonstrations in Ukraine; Police Increase Presence Outside Protest Areas

**Monday, December 9, 2013**

Police in riot gear have taken up positions surrounding Independence Square, City Hall and other areas occupied by protesters. The possibility of clashes between police and protesters remains high. Protesters continue to occupy Independence Square and several blocks of downtown Kyiv, including several blocks around the Rada (Parliament) and other government buildings. The situation is fluid and the location and nature of the demonstrations may change without notice.

We strongly urge U.S. citizens to avoid downtown Kyiv and the areas near government buildings where there are demonstrations or a large police presence. Protesters have blocked several roads in downtown Kyiv. Individuals should exercise caution when moving around the city. Citizens whose residences or hotels are located in areas with gatherings of protestors and police should leave the area or plan for the possibility they might have to remain inside should clashes occur. U.S. citizens should monitor media coverage and stay aware of the ongoing situation.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Ukraine enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at [www.Travel.State.Gov](http://www.Travel.State.Gov). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website, where you can find [current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution](#). Read the [Country Specific Information for Ukraine](#). For additional information, refer to "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. Embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free Smart Traveler App, available through the [iTunes store](#) and [Google Play store](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv is located at 4 A.I. Sikorsky St. (formerly Tankova), Kyiv, Ukraine and is open Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., +380-44-521-5000. **If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +380-44-521-5000.**